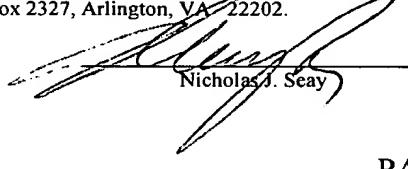


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Date of Signature and Deposit: April 3, 2002


Nicholas J. Seay

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: James A. Thomson

Date: April 3, 2002

Serial No.: 09/522,030

Group Art Unit: 1632

Filed: 03/09/2000

Examiner: J. Woitach

For: SERUM FREE CULTIVATION OF PRIMATE
EMBRYONIC STEM CELLS

File No.: 960296.96544

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RESPONSE

Commissioner For Patents
P O Box 2327
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Sir:

In response to an Office Action dated October 3, 2001 in the file of the above-identified application, please amend the application as follows:

In the Claims

AC AC

Please amend Claims 1 and 14, withdraw Claims 15 and 16, and add new Claim 17 as follows:

Subj. 01 FEB 2002
1. (Amended) A method of culturing primate embryonic stem cells, comprising: culturing the primate embryonic stem cells in a culture essentially free of mammalian fetal serum and in the presence of fibroblast growth factor that is supplied from a source other than just a fibroblast feeder layer.

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The method of claim 1, wherein the culture is essentially free of any animal

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the culture also comprises a fibroblast feeder